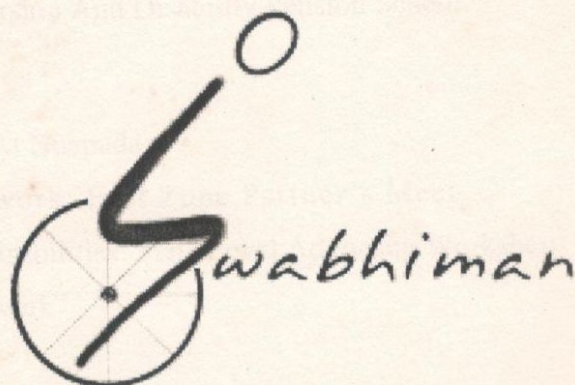


## CONTENTS

| Sl. No. | Topic                                                                            | Page No. |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1       | Salutation Of 2003                                                               | 1-2      |
| 2       | Foreword                                                                         | 3-4      |
| 3       | Convention Address                                                               | 5-6      |
| 4       | Union Cough Of Disabilities Affairs - 12 Countries Int'l. Assn. - 12th           | 7-8      |
| 5       | Addressing Appointments Of 50 Private Schools                                    | 9-10     |
| 6       | Letter Campaign                                                                  | 11-12    |
| 7       | Information Dissemination                                                        | 13-14    |
| 8       | 1% Reservation Of Seats For The Physically Challenged Students In All Government | 15-16    |
| 9       | Medical And Para-Medical Institutions                                            | 17-18    |
| 10      | Report Of Steering Committee On Governmental Committee Of Government Of Orissa   | 19-20    |
| 11      | Life And Appliances For T & D                                                    | 21-22    |
| 12      | Union Budget 2003 - 04                                                           | 23-24    |
| 13      | The People For Disabled People (Jan. 2003 - 2004)                                | 25-26    |
| 14      | 1% Reservation In 2004 - 2005 - A Milestone Achievement                          | 27-28    |
| 15      | State Government's 50% Physical And Mental Disabilities School                   | 29-30    |
| 16      | Networking                                                                       | 31-32    |
| 17      | Self-Reliant Development Of Women                                                | 33-34    |
| 18      | Various Disability Movement                                                      | 35-36    |
| 19      | Networking People For T & D                                                      | 37-38    |
| 20      | Union State Disabilities                                                         | 39-40    |
| 21      | Research And Development                                                         | 41-42    |
| 22      | Speakers Through T & D                                                           | 43-44    |
| 23      | The VEDS                                                                         | 45-46    |
| 24      | Other Matters                                                                    | 47-48    |
| 25      | Notes Left                                                                       | 49-50    |



a disability information and resource centre

# ANNUAL REPORT 2003

a/99, buddhanagar, bhubaneswar- 751 006,  
tel: 0674-2313310/12, Fax : 0674-2430931  
e-mail- swabhiman\_orissa@hotmail.com.

## CONTENTS

| SL. NO. | TOPIC                                                                                                                     | PAGE NO. |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| A.      | <b>Glimpses Of 2003</b>                                                                                                   | 01-02    |
| B.      | <b>Advocacy</b>                                                                                                           | 03-04    |
|         | 1. Intervention At Erasama                                                                                                |          |
|         | 2. Courts Caught Of Discourteous Action - If Courts Do Defy Acts... Then?                                                 |          |
|         | 3. Advocacy Regarding Appointment Of Sri Prakash Behera                                                                   |          |
|         | 4. Letter Campaign                                                                                                        |          |
| C.      | <b>Information Dissemination</b>                                                                                          | 04-06    |
|         | 1. 3% Reservation Of Seats For The Physically Challenged Students In All Government Medical And Para-Medical Institutions |          |
|         | 2. Report Of Steering Committee On Concession/Exemption Of Customs/Excise Duties On Aids And Appliances For PWDs.         |          |
|         | 3. Union Budget 2003-2004                                                                                                 |          |
|         | 4. Tax Benefits For Disabled People (Union Budget 2003-2004)                                                              |          |
|         | 5. 3% Reservation In SGSY Schemes: A Milestone Achieved                                                                   |          |
|         | 6. State Government's Scholarship And Disability Pension Scheme.                                                          |          |
| D.      | <b>Networking</b>                                                                                                         | 07-11    |
|         | 1. Sub-Regional Networking At Nuapada                                                                                     |          |
|         | 2. National Disability Network: East Zone Partner's Meet                                                                  |          |
|         | 3. Networking People With Disabilities: State Level Advocacy Workshop                                                     |          |
|         | 4. Orissa State Disability Network                                                                                        |          |
| E.      | <b>Research And Documentation</b>                                                                                         | 11-12    |
|         | 1. Speaking Through Posters                                                                                               |          |
|         | 2. The VSO Deal                                                                                                           |          |
|         | 3. Blue File                                                                                                              |          |
|         | 4. News Letter                                                                                                            |          |

5. Concession And Facility (English)
6. Disability Etiquette
7. Ludo game
8. Training Module
9. Thematic Material development

|           |                                                                                                                      |              |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>F.</b> | <b>Training Programmes Conducted By Swabhiman</b>                                                                    | <b>13-14</b> |
|           | 1. Training Programme At Sneha Abhijan                                                                               |              |
|           | 2. Training Programme At Koraput                                                                                     |              |
|           | 3. Training Programme To PR Members at Koraput                                                                       |              |
| <b>G.</b> | <b>List of Training Programmes Conducted By Swabhiman<br/>(Table No -1)</b>                                          | <b>15</b>    |
| <b>H.</b> | <b>Training Programme &amp; Workshop Attended</b>                                                                    | <b>16-17</b> |
|           | 1. List of Workshops Attended by Swabhiman Staff (Table No -2)                                                       |              |
|           | 2. List of Training Programme Attended By Swabhiman Staff (Table No -3)                                              |              |
| <b>I.</b> | <b>Special Programme – Camp Anjali</b>                                                                               | <b>18-20</b> |
|           | 1. Felicitation Ceremony – Anjali Scholars                                                                           |              |
|           | 2. Camp Anjali – 2003 (Table No -4)                                                                                  |              |
| <b>J.</b> | <b>Other Activities</b>                                                                                              | <b>20-21</b> |
|           | 1. Experiencing The Challenges Disability                                                                            |              |
|           | 2. Celebration of World Disability Day                                                                               |              |
| <b>K.</b> | <b>Rural Livelihood Generation Programme – Jagatsinghpur</b>                                                         | <b>21</b>    |
| <b>L.</b> | <b>Working With Oxfam</b>                                                                                            | <b>21-23</b> |
|           | 1. Second Inter School Workshop On Domestic Violence And Rights Violation<br>Of Disabled And Non-Disabled Girl Child |              |
|           | 2. Study On Domestic Violence Against Disabled Women In Orissa                                                       |              |
|           | 3. Third Inter School Workshop On Domestic Violence And Rights Violation<br>Of Disabled And Non-Disabled Girl Child  |              |

## A. Glimpses of 2003

### JANUARY

- 10th to 12<sup>th</sup> : Fund Raising at Hotel Swosti Plaza  
24 th : Second Inter School Workshop On Domestic Violence  
And Rights Violation Of Disabled And Non-Disabled  
Girl Child

### FEBRUARY

- 12<sup>th</sup> : Experiencing The Challenges of Disability  
9th : Sub-Regional Networking At Nuapada  
22th to 28th : Disability Awareness in Book Fair, Bhubaneswar

### MARCH

- 22nd : Training Programme At Sneha Abhijan, Erasama

### APRIL

- 4th to 6<sup>th</sup> : Participation in the District Fair, Jagatsinghpur  
24th : Annual GB Meeting

### MAY

- 22nd : Second Phase Training At Sneha Abhiyan  
14th : Anjali Felicitation – 2003  
24 th : Posters for VSO India

### JUNE

- 7th & 8th : National Disability Network: East Zone Partner's Meet  
9th to 11<sup>th</sup> : First Phase Disability Training At Koraput for Action  
Aid India partners in Orissa.

### JULY

- 21st to 27th : Second Phase Disability Training at Bhubaneswar for Action  
Aid India partners in Orissa.  
: First Phase Data Collection for Oxfam Study in Western and  
Southern Orissa and at Jagatsinghpur

### AUGUST

- 18th to 24th : Third Phase Disability Training at Sundargarh for Action  
Aid India partners in Orissa.

**SEPTEMBER**

- : Second Phase Data Collection for Oxfam Study in Western and Southern Orissa and at Jagatsinghpur

**OCTOBER**

- 17th : Networking People With Disabilities: State Level Advocacy Workshop.  
: Visit of Anu and Pavan Kumar from Andhar Pradesh to Resource Center

**NOVEMBER**

- 10th to 14th : Special Programme – Camp Anjali  
21st to 29th : Training to PR members in Koraput  
25th : Oxfam Rally

**DECEMBER**

- 1st : Third Inter School Workshop On Domestic Violence And Rights Violation Of Disabled And Non-Disabled Girl Child  
3rd : World Disability Day Celebration  
: Formation of Orissa State Disability Network  
23rd : General Body Meeting

**OUR PUBLICATIONS IN 2003**

- Blue File
- News Letter
- Second Part of Concession and Facilities
- Posters
- Stickers
- Bookmarks
- Disability Etiquette

## **B. ADVOCACY**

Their rights are violated every now and then,... they do not benefit from the schemes made and meant for them... perhaps, it seems these deskbound plans, policies and procedures are destined to end in damp squibs. Poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and above all disability have put these invisible minority in consternation. In this scenario Swabhiman has emerged as an efficient force, advocating for persons like Ratnakar Sahoo, Prakash Behera who would otherwise be moving from frying pan to fire in search of justice.

Swabhiman is a State level disability information and resource center. Acting as a platform for self-expression of those who are physically, mentally and sensory challenged.

### **1. Intervention at Erasama**

Justice delayed is said to be justice denied. But Ratnakar would have hardly thought of it when he got justice because Rs.6550/- meant a lot to him. Ratnakar Sahoo is a resident of Dhinkia, of Erasma block, Jagatsinghpur. With both legs affected by polio he depends on a tricycle for mobility. After the super cyclone as a part of the individual income generation scheme he was granted a loan worth Rs.7520/-. Ratnakar, deciding to make a stationary shop gave Rs. 6550/- to a carpenter who assured to avail him a cabin within 15 days. To Ratnakar's ill fate the man was not as good as his words as he started to procrastinate. After three months Ratnakar was availed with a cabin- a flimsy made one. After repeatedly requesting to change the cabin, with no more viable alternatives left, Ratnakar filed an F.I.R. against him. Except some initial interventions the police also remained deaf mute to the problem. The goods he purchased for business were perishing with every passing day. After receiving a complaint from him, Swabhiman wrote letters to the Collector and S.P. of Jagatsinghpur demanding immediate action. The S.P. ordered the concerned O.I.C. to take the matter seriously. In the meantime the network of disabled individuals which was initiated by Swabhiman came into action. About 120 disabled individuals presented a memorandum to the S.P. demanding immediate action. Incessant pressure of advocacy and networking fetched the results for Ratnakar as he finally got justice.

### **2. Courts Caught of Discourteous Action - If Courts Do Defy Acts... Then?**

Not quite being courteous to the PWD Act 1995, the district courts of Bolangir, Sonepur, Mayurbhanj and Baripada, in an advertisement for appointment of junior clerks and junior typists published in a news paper, very unlikely forgot to publish about 3% reservation for the PWDs as stated in the above mentioned Act. Immediately after receiving complaint letters, Swabhiman wrote to the District Judges of concerned district courts and also to the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court. But all the letters remained unacknowledged and unreplyed. Then with no options left Swabhiman wrote to the Honorable Chief Justice of Supreme Court. An action from the other end is awaited.

### 3. Advocacy regarding appointment of Sri Prakash Behera

Advocacy is going on regarding appointment of Sri Prakash Behera, a speech and hearing impaired person, as Ear Mould Technician of the office of the Director Health Services, Orissa. We have received a letter from Mr. Prakash Behera, a speech and hearing impaired young man of Bhubaneswar. It states that in 1999 he had appeared in an interview through the Special Employment Exchange for the post of Ear Mould Technician. Recently when he went for the renewal of his registration card he came to know that he had got the same job and therefore his name has been struck off from the employment exchange. The matter of his having got the post was communicated to the employment exchange from the Director of Health Services vide letter no. 52676, dt. 15/11/2001 and no. 21168, dt. 17/06/2002 (under the signature of Joint Director, Directorate of Health Services, Orissa). But since last one year not a single communication has been received, from the Directors office, by Mr. Behera. Our ceaseless lobbying with both Health and Women and Child Development Department of Government of Orissa is yet to break ground.

### 4. Letter Campaign

In a massive letter campaign initiated by Swabhiman last year, more than 5000 letters reached the Chief Minister's Office along with the charter of demands but unfortunately all went unacknowledged. The initiative, though could not find success was nevertheless an attempt deserving admiration for its scale of participation.

## **C. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION**

As a part of its activities, Swabhiman has been regularly disseminating information on various issues to around 120 development organisations, NGOs, individuals and regarding disability issues.

In its effort to create public awareness, Swabhiman has been disseminating information collected from Government Circulars, newspapers and subsequent analysis by Dr. Sruti Mohapatra in consultation with tax and other such experts. The year 2003 raw despatch of information on: 3% reservation of seats in for PWDs in all Medical and Paramedical institutions in Orissa; Report of Steering Committee on concession/exemption of customs/excise duties on aids and appliances for PWDs; Analysis of Union Budget 2003-04; Tax Benefits for PWDs in Union Budget 2003-04; 3% Reservation in SGSY Schemes and State Government's Scholarship and Disability Pension Scheme.

### **1. 3% Reservation of Seats For The Physically Challenged Students In all Government Medical And Para-medical Institutions And Institutions Receiving Government Aid in Orissa. *(Result of our successful lobbying with the government of Orissa)***

This is to celebrate with you a milestone in empowerment of disabled people in Orissa. A Health Department notification mandates 3% reservation of seats for the physically challenged students in Government medical and paramedical institutions and institutions receiving Government aid. Previously this was 1%.

A complaint from the parent of a physically challenged student from Bolangir, set the ball rolling. The daughter had been denied a seat based on 1 % reservation for disabled as printed in the prospectus 2002-2003 of Government Homeopathy College, Bhubaneswar.

In this connection, we wrote, not receiving replies rewrote and wrote again.

We met concerned officials Principal, Government Homeopathy College, Bhubaneswar who expressed his helplessness.

We met Director, Indian Medicine and Homeopathy who said that policy decisions were taken only by the department of Higher Education, Government of Orissa.

Then we wrote to Commissioner cum Secretary, Department of Higher education with copies marked to Director, Higher Education and Secretary, General Administration.

We sent copies of PWD Act, copies of Supreme Court judgment and allied information.

We kept writing and meeting till finally came the notification.

**A small step for Health Department..... a giant help for the disabled community.....and a personal victory for me as one of the 4 million disabled people in Orissa.**

### **2. Report of Steering Committee on concession/exemption of customs/excise duties on aids and appliances for PWDs. *(Compilation from government circular)***

After sustained advocacy by the disability sector on the issue of exemption of Customs & Excise duties on aids & appliances meant for disabled people, the Union Government finally set up a Committee in December 2002 to look into the issue. On the basis of the committee recognition the Union Budget 2003-2004 has proposed reduction on custom duties on hearing aids, crutches, wheel chairs, walking frames, tricycles, brailers and artificial limbs to 5 per cent without Special Additional Duty (SAD).

### **3. Union Budget 2003-2004 *(Edited by Dr. Sruti Mohapatra)***

Dissemination of analysis of Union Budget 2003-04 and highlighting sections which would directly benefit PWD's and their families.

#### **4. Tax Benefits for Disabled People :Union Budget 2003-2004 (*Analysis done by Dr. Sruti Mohapatra*)**

This is in continuum to 'Concessions for Disabled People in Union Budget-2003', which provide the detailed analysis of the tax provisions.

However, the excitement over the tax proposals in the Budget having subsided, it is time to assess them with regard to the proposals that seem anomalous and irrational. The substitution of a new Section 88DD to harmonies the criteria for defining disability as existing under the income tax Rules with the criteria prescribed under the persons with Disability (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, increase in the existing amount of deduction of Rs 40,000 to Rs 50,000 and Rs 75,000 for people with severe disabilities is a welcome change.

There seems to be no ground for restricting the benefit to only one disabled dependent. Some people have more than one such person to support, and hence, the benefit needs to be extended to all disabled people fulfilling the prescribed criteria of disability. This seems necessary in the absence of a comprehensive social security coverage for the country's population.

#### **5. 3% Reservation In SGSY Schemes: A Milestone Achieved**

With approximately 3.5 million disabled people living in the state of Orissa and 90% of them leading life in abject poverty, poverty alleviation programs like SGSY, JGSY, SGRY, IAY etc. are of vital importance for them as there is a provision of 3% reservation for the PWDs. But ironically and unfortunately except some rare districts no where the 3% reservation has been implemented.

Considering this Swabhiman decided to take some initiatives. We wrote a letter (Ref. No.-SWA-03/ADV-569, Dated: 31.03.2003) to Mr. S. N. Tripathy, Commissioner-Cum-Secretary, Panchayat Raj Department, requesting him to bring about a notification where by the district authorities would implement the 3% reservation in their respective areas. Few days after when she visited the Panchayati Raj Department as a follow up to that letter, she was handed over with a letter after reading which her happiness knew no boundaries. The letter was a copy of the Letter No. 3957/ GGSY-II (TSM)-33/2002/PR, Bhubaneswar dated 13/05/03 which was issued by the Commissioner-Cum-Secretary to all the collectors regarding 3% reservation in SGSY schemes. He, in that letter, clearly directed the collectors to ensure 3% reservation in that scheme.

#### **6. State Government's Scholarship And Disability Pension Scheme.**

After 24 years on the occasion of World disability day the State Government has raised the disability pension and scholarship for the disabled school and college students. Before 70,000 persons were getting the scholarship but now the provision has made for more 30,000 which implies the provision for 100,000 people.

The scholarship amount has raised from Rs 20 to Rs 100 for the students of class one to five and Rs 40 to Rs 140 for the students of class sixth to class tenth. And before the college students did not get any scholarship who will get Rs 160 from now. There is also provision for the students of post graduation.

## **D. NETWORKING**

### **1. Sub-Regional Networking At Nuapada**

#### ***PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVES: UNITED VOICES FOR DISABILITY EQUITY REGIONAL WORKSHOP – WESTERN ORISSA***

On 19th February 2003, Swabhiman organised a sensitisation workshop in Western Orissa with the partnership of SRUSTI, a Khariar based NGO and Disabled Association, Nuapada. It was supported by Action Aid India, Bhubaneswar. The aim was to strengthen the networking of the disabled people through out the state with the help of different voluntary organisations working in the development sector so that united efforts could be taken to attract the attention of concerned authorities regarding disability issues.

People from Nuapada, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Sonepur and Boudh including disabled and non-disabled gathered in huge numbers. The district collector of Nuapada, Chief District Medical Officer Nuapada, and Ms. Madhumita Ray from Action Aid India were the Guest of Honour of the occasion. The participants expressed their opinion through group discussion. They realised the essence and importance of networking for the development and progress of the disabled people.

### **2. National Disability Network: East Zone Partner's Meet**

National Disability Network's East Zone Partner's Meet was organised by National Center for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) in association with Swabhiman – on 7th & 8th June 2003, at Hotel Crown, Bhubaneswar.

The Chief Guest of the occasion was Sri P.C. Ghadei, Hon'ble Minister of Health, GoO, & the Guest of Honour was Mr. Umi Daniel, R.M., Action Aid India, Bhubaneswar. Mrs. Nivedita Scudder, President Swabhiman, Ms. Rama Chari, Exec. Officer NCPEDP, New Delhi, & Dr. Sruti Mohapatra, Secy. General, Swabhiman, were the other speakers in the inaugural session.

The second day's session started with the paper presentation by different states. Mr Prassana Kumar Singh and Ms Alka Nizami from Jharkhand spoke about barrier free access. Dr Kasturi Mohapatra from Orissa informed about the causes of disability in children. The main goals chalked out by the National Disability Network in East Zone for the next year were as follows:

1. Access to Special employment exchange
  - Commissioner's office
  - District Collectorate
  - Public Health Center
2. To appoint full time Disability Commissioner in all states.
3. To implement 3% reservation in Universities.
4. To have data of PWDs and NGOs and persons interested to work in this sector.

### 3. Networking People With Disabilities

A State level workshop on "People's Perspectives: United Voices For Disability Equity" aiming to explore how community can create change was organized on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2003 by Swabhiman, Pratibandhi Kalyani Kendra and Office of The Vice President (East), Disabled People's International- India. The event was supported by Action Aid Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. Honorable Health Minister, Sri Prafulla Ghadai graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Among the other dignitaries present were Smt. Jayshree Raveendran (Editor, Success And Ability), Mr. Manoranjan Saran (Director, Census), Dr Sruti Mohapatra (Secretary- Swabhiman) and Ms Madhumita Roy (Program Manager- Action Aid India). A total of 95 participants including 43 from outside Bhubaneswar participated in it.

#### ***BUSINESS SESSION: 1***

This session started with Dr. Sruti Mohapatra informing the participants about the achievements since the last workshop. During this she mentioned about

- Successful networking at Dinkia and Nuapada
- Training programmes conducted by Swabhiman
- Letter Campaign
- Information Dissemination

Dr. Mohapatra concluded by informing the participants about the future activities of Swabhiman.

- Information dissemination (at all level by all organization all corners of Orissa)
- Undertake joint advocacy campaign
- Unified celebration of World Disability Day by working on a single charter of Demand.

#### ***REGIONAL NETWORKING IN ORISSA - Dinkia and Nuapada (community sharing)***

##### **Kalyani Khatua from Dinkia**

Smt Khatua clearly mentioned that previously people used to pass her remarks, which were irritating and painful as well. Even her family members were no exceptions. After the intervention of Swabhiman she got a loan from Action Aid India, by using which she has started her own business. She concluded with a smile that there has been great change in the attitude of people as she was now a contributory member of her family and the society as well.

### **Bhola Nath Jena from Krushna Chandrapur Swayam Sahayak Dal**

With both legs affected by polio, Mr Bholanath Jena a qualified person, tried hard to get a job. But all his efforts ended in vain. After the super cyclone he got a loan and did his business. He told "the situations of yesteryears are different from today. I am self-sufficient. Now through this federation we are getting loan and also repaying it also." Again he said, "If such type of work will go on then one day we may forget that we are disabled."

Mr Kamalkanta Lenka Coordinator, Jagatsingh Pur added that there has been considerable change in the Socio-economic status of the people after the Individual Income Generation Programmes and more so after federation formation.

### **Mr. Pradeep Agarwal and Duryadhan Meher from Nuapada**

Mr Pradeep Agrawal, Secretary, Disabled Association Nuapada mentioned that there are 6694 PWDs in Nuapada district out of them 775 were Mentally Challenged, 3422 are Orthopaedically Handicapped, 892 were Speech and Hearing Impaired and 703 were Visually Impaired. But out of them only 793 are getting disability pension. So the organization is trying the best to provide pension to all the disabled persons of the district.

### **COASTAL NETWORKING By Ms Madhumita Ray**

Ms Madhumita Ray, Programme Manager- Action Aid India informed the participants on the importance of regional networking. About the coastal networking she informed that the networking has been formed by taking four issues – disability, issues of the fisherfolk, dalit rights and the issues of the victims of natural disaster. The is resource sharing and uniting to strengthen groups.

- Swabhiman, PKK, Akhyam Sanghatan, Gop and Action Aid (Disability)
- Dalits with the Ambedkar Lohia Manch (Dalit rights)
- Fisher Folk – Members of Samudram (Issues of the fisher folk)
- Sneha Abhiyan and BGVS (Issues of the victims of natural disaster)

### **BUSINESS SESSION: II**

This session focused on

1. Sharing of experience/ trauma/success
2. Views/ suggestion son Orissa State Disability Network.
3. Expectation from Orissa State Disability Network.

As it was an open forum for all, participants expressed and share their opinions on many fronts.

### ***BUSINESS SESSION: III (World Disability Day Celebration)***

Ms Madhumita Ray as a facilitator asked the participants to decide about the celebration of the coming disability day. She also suggested formation of a panel to decide on the same.

It was unanimously decided to form a committee to celebrate the coming disability day. The members were as follows

- Dr Sruti Mohapatra, Swabhiman
- Mr Dalvinder Singh Bhangu, Hope
- Mr Susil Kumar Sahu, CCD
- Mr Somesh Mohapatra, Pathagar
- Mr Sibabrata Kar, Sneha Abhiyan
- Mr G.P. Ranjan, Ekta
- Mr Ranjit Mohapatra, SADHANA
- Mr K.C. Pandav, SRADHA
- Mr M.M. Prusti, Parent's Association
- Smt Baruni Devi, BBC School for Deaf
- Mr P.K. Mishra, KIRAN
- Mr Hemant Nayak, PRAYAS
- Ms Manjushree Pattnaik, OLS
- Mr Sunakar Pal, UNMESHA

It was also decided that before 31<sup>st</sup> October all the members would send their issues in draft to Swabhiman so that a common charter of demands would be formed.

### **4. Orissa State Disability Network**

During the state level advocacy workshop on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2003 a panel was formed to discuss on the celebration of the coming Disability Day. And it was perhaps that moment where everyone deeply felt the need of unity and Orissa State Disability Network came into being. A committee was also formed there to take decisions regarding the celebration of World Disability Day. The 12-member committee, representations from various districts decided to celebrate raise issues such as setting up of an independent disability commissioner and appointment of a full time disability commissioner. The committee also decided to present a uniform memorandum to the Chief Minister where the district chapters from all districts of Orissa would present the memorandum through their respective district collectors and the Bhubaneswar Chapter in particular would present the same memorandum directly to the Chief Minister. The committee decided to sit on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov at Camp- Anjali, Rabindra Mandap for further discussions. On that day the committee chalked out the issues to be prioritized in the memorandum. This was followed up by another meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> Nov at Action Aid Regional Office, Bhubaneswar where all the members finalized the memorandum and all agreed to stage a dharana in case no substantial action being initiated from the Govt's side.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> December for OSDN was full of hustles and bustles for OSDN through out the state as they executed their preplanned actions in an emphatic pattern. In Bhubaneswar street plays based on these issues were organized at strategic places like Railway Station and Utkal University. But unfortunately the Bhubaneswar Chapter could not present the memorandum directly to the Chief Minister as he was out of station.

On 10<sup>th</sup> of December, Dr Sruti Mohapatra- Secretary General, Swabhiman along with other delegates of OSDN met Mr Prafulla Ch Ghadai, the Honourable Minister of Health and

Family Affairs and presented the memorandum. Before meeting to Mr. Prafulla Chandra Ghadai a team of 15 members from OSDN met to Mr. Surya Narayan Patra, the Honorable Minister of Energy to put some extra pressure for this cause.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> of December another meeting was commenced at Swabhiman in which OSDN evaluated the existing scenario, the problems and necessary measures to ameliorate the exacerbating situations of the disabled community. It was also decided that OSDN would go for an interface between NGOs and the Government Officials where it would present the issues before Dr Agnihotri, Commissioner Secretary- Woman & Child and Disability.

---

## **E. RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION**

### **1. Speaking Through Posters**

As a part of its activity Swabhiman has been developing posters carrying and conveying information and issues related with disability. With a combination of art and theme, poster acts as an efficient medium of expression as it leaves an ever-lasting impression in the mind of the viewer. Posters on themes like *Right To Vote*, *Right To Education*, *Right To Access* speak of the basic rights of the disabled people and posters on *Is Government Acting On The Act* convey the callousness of the Government towards disabled people. Another poster on *Can You Spot Any Difference* includes that the disabled persons do have the same emotion as any normal person has. These concepts were developed by Dr. Sruti Mohapatra and were successfully canvassed with colors by Prakash Behera, an Anjali Scholar 2003, (speech and hearing impaired). Besides these, Swabhiman has also developed some printed posters.

### **2. The VSO Deal**

During a visit to Swabhiman Office Mr Kevan Moll, Program Director, Voluntary Services Overseas was very much impressed with the posters and he expressed his eagerness to buy those posters in large numbers. He suggested to send a proposal on the basis of which everything would be finalized. As soon as it was finalized Swabhiman started developing the posters. On 24th May 2003, Mr Prabhu Ranjan Palai went to New Delhi and handed over the posters to VSO.

### **3. Blue File**

BLUE FILE is a quarterly journal, collecting all current information on disABILITY for government, NGO's, researchers, media journalists and other interested people. In the BLUE FILE the clippings are keyboarded and arranged according to major areas of interest.

The first issue - Blue file (January 2003 to March 2003)

The second issue - Blue file (April 2003 to June 2003)

The third issue - Blue file (July 2003 to September 2003)

### **4. News Letter –Giant Leaps Forward**

Two issues have been published and disseminated widely.

## **5. 'Handbook on Concession and Facilities for Disabled People in India'**

This handbook, in English, will contribute to dissemination of information on the various schemes available for disabled people. Besides the government, both at the central and state level, nationalized banks and various other organizations have also initiated schemes to benefit and empower disabled people. But unfortunately during our field visits we discovered that most disabled people were not benefiting from the schemes either because they were not aware or because they had no access to information. This compilation is an effort by Swabhiman to make information available to people at their doorstep.

## **6. Disability Etiquette**

*This book authorised by dr. Sruti Mohapatra will be a guide for all of us in interacting and communicating with people with disabilities.*

## **7. Ludo Game**

An interactive way of learning about disabilities, their prevention and spreading awareness.

## **8. Training Module**

The three days training programme at Koraput started on 9th June 2003. Swabhiman, for this training has developed three comprehensive modules to provide the best possible information to the trainees. While the Training Module-1 dealt with definition, types, identification and prevention of disability, the Training Module-2 was about various acts, laws and rehabilitation facilities related with disability. Training Module-3 was the project assignment for the trainees and it was designed specifically to inculcate better involvement with and understanding of disability and to assess their abilities after the training. A total 36 participants from 27 organisations of Orissa participated in the training programme.

## **9. Thematic Material development**

In our Thematic Material development program Bookmarks on "Violence against Women and Girl Children with Disability" was printed and distributed. Among other places in (a) World Social Forum, Mumbai (b) During release of report on "World's Children" by UNICEF at Swosti Plaza (c) Human Rights Seminar by Orissa chapter IIPA at hotel Swosti (d) Social Welfare Advisory Board's meeting on girl child at IDCOL auditorium (e) During Our Nukad Natak presentation (f) Round square International Regional Workshop at Gwalior,